

**From:** [Reshkin, Karen](#)  
**To:** [Behnke, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Could you send the press release not sure I saw it  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:39:44 AM

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Good morning, Kristina. I'll be working on the response website with you. This will be my first time doing that, so I may ask some really basic questions.

I understand you've created something already. What is the name of the site, or what's the URL so I can view it?

Thanks

Karen

P.S. – you can reach me by phone at 312-353-6353 or by Skype IM in addition to email.

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**From:** Behnke, Kristina  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Ribordy, Michael  
**Cc:** Maguire, Andrew ; Reshkin, Karen ; Kelley, Jeff ; Borries, Samuel ; El-Zein, Jason  
**Subject:** RE: Could you send the press release not sure I saw it  
Will do. I'm working on updating now. I got a few pictures from START as well  
Kristina Behnke  
On-Scene Coordinator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (SE-5J)  
Chicago, IL 60604  
Office: (312) 353-1057  
Fax: (312) 692-2406  
Cell: (312) 237-5685  
[Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov](mailto:Behnke.Kristina@epa.gov)

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**From:** Ribordy, Michael  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:14 AM  
**To:** Behnke, Kristina <[behnke.kristina@epa.gov](mailto:behnke.kristina@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Maguire, Andrew <[maguire.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:maguire.andrew@epa.gov)>; Reshkin, Karen <[Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov](mailto:Reshkin.Karen@epa.gov)>; Kelley, Jeff <[kelly.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.jeff@epa.gov)>; Borries, Samuel <[borries.samuel@epa.gov](mailto:borries.samuel@epa.gov)>; El-Zein, Jason <[el-zein.jason@epa.gov](mailto:el-zein.jason@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Could you send the press release not sure I saw it  
Kristina and Andy,  
Talked to Jeff Kelly and he asked that we update the webpage to include the following information until the 10:30 update. Can you work with Karen Reshkin (3-6353) on updating the public side of the webpage. Before it goes public we will need Jeff and Sam's ok. Thanks

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**From:** Kelley, Jeff  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:08 AM  
**To:** Ribordy, Michael <[ribordy.mike@epa.gov](mailto:ribordy.mike@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Could you send the press release not sure I saw it  
*We sent this statement to reporters who had reached out to us and to congressionals.*  
**EPA RESPONDS TO CHEMICAL SPILL AT U.S. STEEL FACILITY IN PORTAGE, IND.**  
EPA is responding to a chemical spill at the U.S. Steel facility in Portage, Ind. This morning,

the company reported a wastewater discharge to the Burns Waterway, within 100 yards of Lake Michigan. EPA has determined that the wastewater contains hexavalent chromium, a toxic byproduct of industrial processes. EPA is working with the company to contain the spill. At this time, it's not known how much has been spilled.

EPA is monitoring the waterway and Lake Michigan. This sampling does not show that the hexavalent chromium has reached Lake Michigan. EPA will continue to monitor and will provide updates as needed.

EPA is working closely with U.S. Steel and federal, state and local partners. In an abundance of caution, the nearest municipal water source, the Indiana American Water in Ogden Dunes, has shut down its water intake and will use reserve water. Also, the National Park Service has temporarily closed two beaches at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (see <https://www.nps.gov/indu/index.htm> for more information).

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**Jeff Kelley**

*Director, Office of External Communications*

*U.S. EPA Region 5*

*ph: 312-353-1159*

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**From:** Ribordy, Michael

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:07 AM

**To:** Kelley, Jeff <[kelley.jeff@epa.gov](mailto:kelley.jeff@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Could you send the press release not sure I saw it

Mike Ribordy, Chief

Emergency Response Section #3

U.S. EPA Region 5

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